

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 14760 301743Z

43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SAJ-01 SCI-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /109 W

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P R 301610Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2961

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOSCOW 14760

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: CGEN PFOR UR US

SUBJ: EMBASSY'S SEPT 16 PROTEST ABOUT ROUGHING UP OF CORRESPONDENTS

REF: MOSCOW A) 14002; B) 14016; C) MOSCOW 14691

1. DURING SEPT 30 CALL AT MFA I ASKED MIKHAYLOV, ACTING CHIEF
OF USA DIVISION, FOR RESPONSE TO SEPT 16 PROTEST ABOUT ROUGHING
UP OF US CORRESPONDENTS AT SEPT 15 ART SHOW CLOSING.

2. ALLUDING TO SUCCESSFUL AND PEACEFUL SEPT 29 EXHIBIT (REF C)
MIKHAYLOV SMILED AND ASKED "DIDN'T YOU NOTICE ANY CONSEQUENCES?"
I ACKNOWLEDGED HIS ALLUSION AND WELCOMED FACT THAT SEPT 29
SHOWING WAS WITHOUT INCIDENT, AND REITERATED THAT THRUST OF OUR
PROTEST WAS USE OF VIOLENCE AGAINST U.S. JOURNALISTS AND IN-
ACTION OF MILITIA.

3. MIKHAYLOV SAID HE WAS NOT SURE MILITIA HAD BEEN AWARE WHAT WAS
HAPPENING. HE SAID MFA WAS CONTINUING TO INVESTIGATE MATTER, AND
THERE WERE SEVERAL QUESTIONS--INCLUDING CONDUCT OF EMBASSY STAFF AND
CORRESPONDENTS. BEHAVIOR OF SOME OF "YOUR PEOPLE" WAS NOT IMPECCABLE
OR IRREPROACHABLE (BEZUPRECHNIY). THERE WAS SOME DOUBT WHETHER
THEIR PRESENCE WAS MOTIVATED BY DESIRE TO SEE EXHIBIT OR ANTI-
SOVIET INCIDENT. MIKHAYLOV NOTED HE DID NOT, OF COURSE, APPROVE
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 14760 301743Z

OF VIOLENCE IN ANY EVENT.

4. I REITERATED THAT EXHIBIT WAS OF REAL AND LEGITIMATE INTEREST
TO CORRESPONDENTS AND EMBASSY STAFF, AND I HAD TO REJECT SUGGESTION
THEY WENT TO SITE WITH SOMETHING ELSE IN MIND.

5. AFTER MEETING I AND EMBOFF WERE ESCORTED OUT BY USA DIVISION
JUNIOR OFFICER YU. S. KAPRALOV, WHO HAD TAKEN NOTES. EMBOFF
ASKED KAPRALOV IF HE HAD ATTENDED EXHIBIT. KAPRALOV SAID HE
HAD NOT, BUT HEARD IT WAS SUCCESSFUL ON THE RADIO-"YOUR RADIO,
VOA."

EXEMPT
DUBS

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Message Attributes

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